



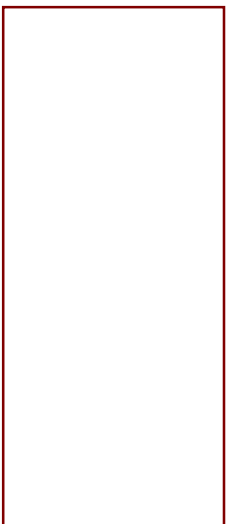
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The Mountain Democrat
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 760
Oakhurst, CA 93644



MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

February - March 2009



The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Democratic Clubs of Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties which are affiliated with the California Democratic Council, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

February 2009

Feb 7: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Feb 14 Mariposa Club Meeting

March 2009

March 7: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Jan 10: Mariposa Club Meeting

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For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web page at:

YosemiteDems.net

Mariposa Democratic Club

**FINAL ISSUE
PLEASE RENEW**

If this label is on the cover of your newsletter it means that our records indicate your 2009 club dues have not been paid.

It's the beginning of the year; and your first New Year's Resolution should be to renew your Mariposa Democratic Club membership! It's easy – just fill out the form below and send it with a check to:

Mariposa Democratic Club
PO Box 5008-268
Mariposa, CA 95338

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email(s): _____

Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Note: Dues are \$5 per person, but please consider donating extra to help us do more!

Hello Mariposa Democrats

By Anne Brock

I had the great honor to be elected as president of the Mariposa Democratic Club for 2009; it's an exciting year of change, at the federal, state and local level.

You have already heard of some of the changes – we have a new mailing address, a new phone number and a new email address – and we'll be doing some other administrative type changes as the months go by. We also are putting together a budget, so we'll be able to map expenses against a budget, and see how we do!

But more important, we want to continue the activism from last year and work on changing our communities by taking action at all levels. We invite all our members to get involved and help drive what the club does this year! To start this, we've formed some committees – Membership, Action, Jefferson Dinner and the Les Marsden committees. We also need an events committee to focus on our other activities later this year – maybe another fundraiser in June, the Mariposa County Fair in August, and the Cajun Dinner in November. You don't have to come to meetings to get involved – you can join these committees and make a huge impact. (Call 209-742-1010 or email mariposademclub@gmail.com and let us know what you're interested in!)

We also need your ideas and your input on what the club can do to make things better! We want bottom-up actions and ideas. Can you make a difference? Yes, you can!

I look forward to seeing and hearing from all of you!



Welcome Madame President

By: Kathryn Heth

When Barack Obama won the presidency this year, Anne Brock like many others was overjoyed, amazed, and thrilled but at the same time, she worries about how he will cope with the difficulties he faces. Anne also won the presidency this year, of the Mariposa Democratic Club, and while her agenda is less overwhelming, she nevertheless has her own challenges ahead.

She would first of all like to see that all current members become actively involved. Last year she successfully spearheaded a project called "The Victory Committee" and was impressed by the number of club members whose collective energies accomplished a letter writing campaign from brain storming the idea to stuffing envelopes and attaching address labels. This is the kind of support she wants to see continued.

On Feb.10, she conducted her first club meeting and was clearly well prepared with an enterprising agenda, sign-up sheets for various events, and flip charts clearly elaborating each agenda item.

Conventional wisdom has it that you can tell a lot about a person by what they read. Anne is currently engrossed in both a James Patterson thriller and a book about game theory entitled, "A Prisoner's Dilemma". Does that tell you something about her?

Many thanks to Anne for stepping up and into her new role. We wish her well.



25th Assembly District Delegates Elected to the State Party

By Peter Leinau

For Democrats throughout California, the weekend of January 11th and 12th was the opportunity to elect Delegates from their Assembly District to be their voice and representatives to the California Democratic Party convention in April. The twelve delegates for Assembly District 25 represent our Mountain Democrat communities and beyond to represent Calaveras, Mono, Tuolumne, and half of Stanislaus Counties.

Semi-official results for the AD 25 (pending final processing by the state Democratic Party) are: Thomas Aja, Gail Bunge, Christopher Chaffee, Sally Chenault, Patrick Ip, Nancy Mooney, Bill Robbins, Sharon Robbins, Susan Sanders, Helena Straughter, Alan Strauss, and myself—Peter Leinau. The group represents a mix of returning delegates and new faces, men and woman, and senior party members and youth. Perhaps reflecting the Modesto voting location, geographically 10 of the 12 Delegates elected are from the north half of the District, with over half of these from the general Modesto area. I will be proposing that future AD25 voting be in multiple voting sites to make it easier for our widespread rural populations to participate in the internal party processes.

My own interest in running to represent our district to the State Party stems from my recent write-in campaign for the 19th congressional seat and my realization of how much local organizing and issues-education work was still needed to mobilize a progressive majority. I believe our success in the future will be dependant on effective organizing and education efforts now, and we will need the Democratic Party leadership to support our local efforts in a sustained a meaningful fashion. Now as one of our AD25 Delegates, I am committed to working toward that goal, and contributing to our success through the next elections in 2010! I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the District and our Mountain Area Democrats to the State Party, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on organizing toward our future. I can be reached at leinau4change@aol.com

What A Difference A Day Makes

January 20, 2009

Obama Inauguration!

January 22, 2009

Guantanamo ordered closed.

Mandates that interrogation techniques in the Army Field Manual be used by all intelligence and law enforcement services.

Secret prisons ordered closed.

New rules on government transparency and ethics.

Senior aides' salaries frozen.

George J. Mitchell assigned as Special Envoy for Arab-Israeli Affairs.

Richard C. Holbrooke assigned as Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Obama wins battle to keep his BlackBerry!

For day-to-day continuation of this list see:
<http://yosemitedems.net/DayDifference.html>

Thomas Jefferson Community Service Essay Award

By Jim Archer

The Mariposa Democratic Club will be sponsoring the Third Annual Thomas Jefferson Community Service Essay Award. This essay contest will be open to all Mariposa County Unified School District seniors. Qualifications for the award will include currently enrolled high school seniors in good standing having a GPA of 2.0 or better. The intent of the essay contest is to provide financial assistance to those students who have contributed to their community in the past and intend to do so in the future.

A letter of recommendation from a community member who can validate a student's community service will be required to accompany the essay and the application form. All completed applications must be returned to the student's school no later than noon on Monday, March 2, 2009.

Following the judging of all entries, the finalist will be awarded a \$500.00 cash prize provided by the Mariposa Democratic Club. Service to family, community and country reflects the highest of values our young students can embrace. The Mariposa Democratic Club wishes to reward past services and encourage future endeavors through this essay contest and would like to recognize those students who engage in community services.



Jefferson Dinner Scheduled!

By Anne Brock

The Mariposa Democratic Club will be holding its annual Jefferson Dinner on Sat., April 18th. Mark your calendars! It will be at the Best Western in Mariposa.

Once again, we will have the winner of the essay contest read her or his essay at the dinner. The theme of the essay contest (which is aimed at high school seniors) is always around what has the applicant has done for the community, so it is especially appropriate this year. We are looking for a speaker around community action as well.

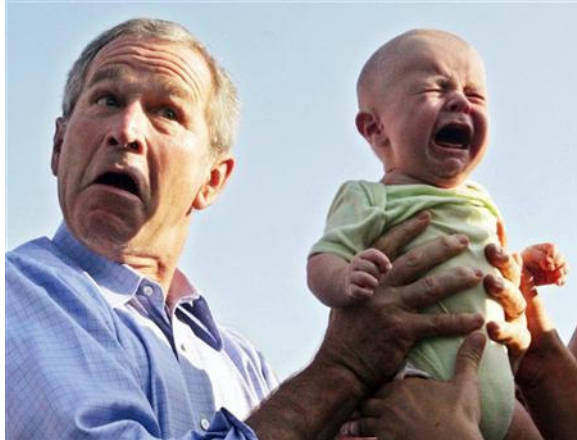
We're still hammering down the details, but in the spirit of change, we are expecting quite a different dinner this year; please keep an eye on emails, the press, and the Yosemite Democrat website for details as we finalize them. You may not receive your next newsletter before the dinner, so please do look for the details!

You can reserve your tickets at the dinner or get more information by calling 209-742-1010 and leaving a message!



THE FACE OF THE NATION

Before



After



The Mariposa Democratic Club

has a new phone number:

209-742-1010

and a new mailing address

Mariposa Democratic Club

PO Box 5008-268

Mariposa, CA 95338

and a new email address

mariposademclub@gmail.com



Sally Jeans and Patty Stein, 2008 Award Committee Members with Jessica Fullmer, 2008 Eleanor Roosevelt Award Winner

November 2008 - November 2010

Looking Forward/Looking Back

By Peter Leinau, Write in Candidate for Congress 2008

“It’s just WRONG!” “Someone needs to run against him.” “There has to be a choice.” “What has he done right?”

Throughout the 19th Congressional District from Columbia and Sonora in the north to Bass Lake and North Fork in the south, these were the thoughts of moderate and progressive voters from throughout the 19th Congressional District as George Radanovich sat poised to receive his 8th term in office unopposed.

As a parent, educator, and progressive I too had those thoughts, and in the end crossed over the line in the realization that someone had to be that voice for a positive, progressive vision of our district.

Running as a write-in for Congress in the last five weeks before the election confirmed my belief that there is a groundswell for change in our district, and that change will come through the months ahead and into the 2010 election. From the Obama rallies to the Peace rallies throughout our district, change is coming. It came to Washington in 2008, it will come to our district in 2010. What became clear as well, however, is that there is much organizing and issue education to be done! We have our work cut out for us in the months ahead.

I am gratified by the hundreds of people who thanked me for running, and the thousands who went to the trouble to write me in to register their vote for change. I am encouraged by the many who had already voted absentee who asked “Will you run again in 2010?”

Together we can be the progressive sustainable change we envision for our district and our country!

Looking Forward/Looking Back (continued)

My sincere thanks to everyone in our district and our local clubs for their advice and support during the whirlwind election cycle of 2008. I look forward to journey together to local change in 2010!



Peter Leinau, Speaking at the Sonora Obama Rally November 4, 2008



Maintaining our Power and Independence

By Ellie Schermerhorn

It was just a few months ago that gasoline prices were pushing \$5 a gallon in California, and food prices and commodity prices were soaring. OPEC and oil companies were awash in record profits, and the rest of us felt sucker punched. How could it be that a trip to the pump now cost twice as much as it had before?

But, obeying the laws of economics, we reexamined our driving habits, and made some rational changes. Was that trip to Fresno really necessary? And would the quality of our lives be significantly affected if we drove the not-quite-as-comfortable-but-more-fuel-efficient vehicle there instead?

Combine a wholesale collapse of the financial, real estate, and job markets with a paradigm shift in people's driving habits, and you get what we now have: national gasoline prices back to 2004 levels, in the \$1.80/gallon range. But every financial transaction has at least two sides, and OPEC is lowering production which will drive our gas prices back up again.

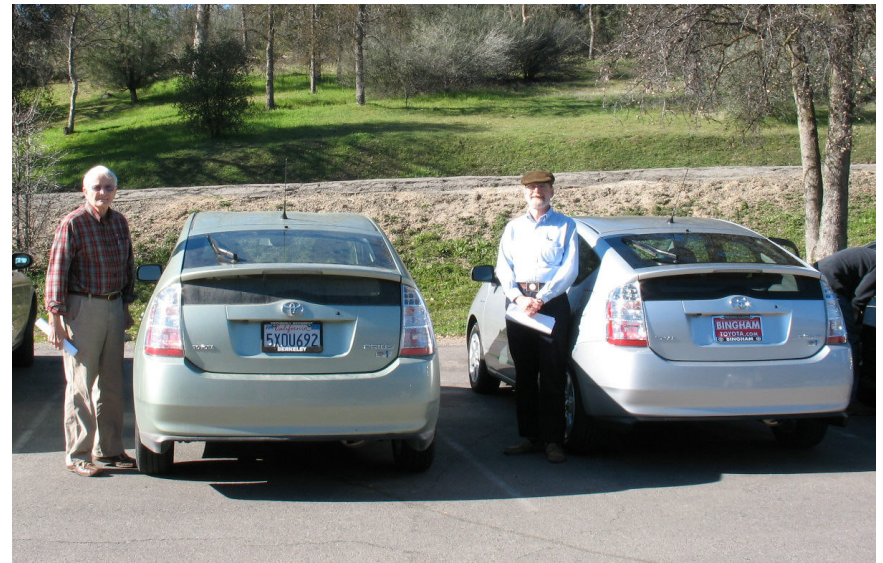
How do we maintain our consumer power in the face of supply manipulation, and an inevitable decline in this finite resource?

The first thing we have to do is realize that any supply surplus is, at best, a short-term phenomenon. We have to not take the bait, and continue to look for ways to ratchet down our individual oil consumption, even if the fish hooks being dangled in front of our noses have "on sale" tags.

So let's save that money we no longer have to ship overseas, and set it aside for a hybrid purchase. Let's look for ways to wring every possible drop of oil out of our lives. Let's take our hard-earned and carefully saved dollars and make long-term, oil-saving purchases that serve us, in spite of what the world-wide oil

Maintaining our Power and Independence (continued)

industry and oil-producing nations decide to do. We win all around by increasing our national security, our personal financial security, and the sustainability of our planet.



The Green Team
Scott Hill and Ed Estes
are doing their part with their Toyota Priuses

Hornitos Inaugural Ball

By Kathryn Heth

The minute the invitation arrived I telephoned my politically astute daughter. "I've been invited to an inaugural ball!", I told her. "Wonderful", she said. "So when are you leaving for Washington?"

"Luckily", I told her, "I don't have to go to Washington. This inaugural ball is in Hornitos."

"Probably won't be as crowded there", she said.

She was correct. Driving 8 miles up Hornitos Road from Hwy. 140, on the clear starlit evening of January 20, my friend and I encountered one car. When we arrived at our destination, the huge "INAUGURAL BALL" hand hewn sign greeted us. Jumping out of the car to open the iron gate, I remembered the invitation had warned of the free range cattle area and I was sure to close the gate behind me.

The invitation also read, black tie, potluck. I'll bet the inaugural ball organizers in Washington didn't think to combine those two ideas. Mostly they hired caterers I would guess.

Upon entering their hilltop home, we were warmly greeted by hostess and host Heather Bernikoff and David Raboy, both of whom were elegantly dressed. Heather wore what appeared to be a designer floor length pink brocaded gown and oversized sparkling jewelry to match. David, host extraordinaire, wore a handsome black suit and the requisite black bow tie.

The "Wise Guys" played highly danceable and listenable music during the entire evening. Reenie Haughey graciously offered tarot readings for those who wanted guidance for the new year, and no caterer's offerings could have surpassed the delicious pot luck dishes contributed by the guests.

Hornitos Inaugural Ball (continued)

Heather and David's spacious art-filled home offered the perfect setting for "ordinary people" to enjoy each other's company, all reveling in their joyful thanks for President Barack Obama's victory.

As the celebratory evening came to an end, guests were invited to write four things about the past administration that they had found objectionable and those comments were then ceremoniously thrown into a bonfire. A fitting conclusion to a fabulous evening.



Eleanor Roosevelt Community Service Awards Coming Up

by Ellie Schermerhorn

Thanks to your generous donations, the Oakhurst Democratic Club and Democratic Club of Coarsegold give two awards to Yosemite High School students in May called the "Eleanor Roosevelt Community Service Award". This is one of our clubs' most important and high profile activities. Many students and parents attend the awards ceremonies, getting us out in front of both the community and the students.

We thank Joanne Wagers (chair), and members Cheryce Chartier and Sandy Stairs who have agreed to serve on the committee. We also want to thank Pati Stein and Sally Jeans for their faithful work on this committee the last two years.

The committee will meet in April to review applications, and announce the winners at our May 2nd meeting. The winners will be given their awards at the Yosemite High School Awards ceremony on May 11th. We'll invite the winners to join us at our meeting on June 6th. We hope you take pride in knowing you've helped make this possible!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person
(Mariposa lifetime membership is \$100)

Today's Date: _____

Club: Coarsegold___ Mariposa___ or Oakhurst___

New Member: _____ or Renewal: _____

How did you find out about us? _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State:___ ZIP:_____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisorial District (if known): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Please mail form and check payable to:

Mariposa Democratic Club	-or-	Oakhurst Democratic Club
PO Box 5008-268		PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338		Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 742-1010		(559) 658-2342

-or-

Democratic Club of Coarsegold
28845 Crystal Springs Road
Coarsegold, CA 93614
559-658-8220



FLOAT FOR RENT

**Our giant, splashy and wonderful float is for rent!
Tell your friends and relations.
For information call Jery Lacayo**

***Mortimer Mouse Sez...*
I think that I should
get a BlackBerry too!
Then I could text the president.**

